

21. (AMENDED) The method of claim 19, further comprising after the instructing step, questioning the first person using second questions having predetermined fixed responses and pertaining to the first person's attitude toward the second person.

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4-10, 12-17 and 19-21 are currently pending in light of the amendments herein.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12-17, 22-25, and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brocato *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,256,068).

The Examiner rejected claims 6-8, 19-21, and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brocato *et al.* ('068).

The amendments herein reflect communications between the Examiner and Applicants' legal representative, and Applicants respectfully believe that the claims, as amended herein, overcome the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections.

### CONCLUSION

In summary, based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all independent claims and dependent claims, namely claims 1, 4-10, 12-17 and 19-21, meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

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## **Appendix A. Identification of Amended Material**

Please amend claims 1 and 19 as follows:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A therapeutic method for improving a relationship between a living first person and a living second person, comprising the steps of:

providing a coffin, wherein the coffin is visually available to [a] the first person;

having the second person in the coffin;

directing the first person to see [a] the second person as being in the coffin [, wherein the second person is alive]; and

instructing the first person to speak to the second person in relation to a relationship between the first person and the second person.

19. (TWICE AMENDED) A therapeutic method for improving a relationship between a living first person and a living second person, comprising the steps of:

prior to administering the therapeutic method, determining whether to continue with the therapeutic method, including questioning a first person using first questions having predetermined fixed responses, and evaluating the responses of the first person to the first questions; and

if the evaluating determines that the therapeutic method should continue:

providing a coffin, wherein the coffin is visually available to the first

person;

having the second person in the coffin;

directing the first person to see [a] the second person as being in the coffin[,  
wherein the second person is alive]; and

instructing the first person to speak to the second person in relation to a  
relationship between the first person and the second person.